

Message Text

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UNIDO

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TAGS:OCON, UNIDO

SUBJECT: UNIDO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD, TWELFTH

- SESSION, (IDB-XII), AGENDA ITEM 12, DEVELOPMENT
- AND TRANSFER OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

1. DOCUMENT ID/B/206 IS A REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN RESPONSE TO IDB-XI'S RES. 47 WHICH BRINGS TOGETHER ITEMS IN THE FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY CONSIDERED SEPARATELY AT PREVIOUS IDB AND PERMANENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS -- SUCH AS APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY AND THE INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL BANK (INTIB). REPORT CONSISTS OF FIVE CHAPTERS: BASIC CONSIDERATIONS, OVERVIEW OF UNIDO ACTIVITIES, PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, COOPERATION WITH OTHER UN ORGANIZATIONS, AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

2. FIRST CHAPTER SETS OUT COMMENDABLY BROAD APPROACH, EMPHASIZING INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TECHNOLOGY, INDUSTRY, AND OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND REMARKING THAT INTEGRATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN "THE MERE CONSIDERATION
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OF MECHANISMS TO BE EMPLOYED TO PROMOTE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT".

3. NEXT THREE CHAPTERS DESCRIBE IN SOME DETAIL THE MANY AND VARIED UNIDO ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY; THERE IS SOME INTERNAL REDUNDANCY AND ALSO DUPLICATION WITH PARTS OF THE DOCUMENTATION PREPARED FOR OTHER AGENDA ITEMS,

BUT THIS IS NOT A SERIOUS PROBLEM.

4. CONCLUDING PARAGRAPHS OF REPORT NOTE THAT UNIDO ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY EXPANDING, THAT THE PROGRAMS DESCRIBED IN THE DOCUMENT ENVISAGE COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES OF LDC'S, AND THAT THESE, TOGETHER WITH EXPECTED RESULTS OF UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, WILL "INEVITABLY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL INPUTS OF HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES, APART FROM SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL SET-UP IN UNIDO TO IMPLEMENT A LARGER AND MORE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM". (COMMENT: DOCUMENT SEEMS TO ASSUME UNLIMITED RESOURCE AVAILABILITIES. IT MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO COMPARE RELATIVE IMPACTS OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OR INDICATE HOW PRIORITIES WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IF A CHOICE AMONG ACTIVITIES HAD TO BE MADE.)

5. ONE OF THE POINTS OF EMPHASIS IN THE DOCUMENT IS THE NEED TO ENHANCE THE BARGAINING CAPABILITIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MUCH OF THE ACTIVITY REPORTED UNDER THIS HEADING IS IN THE NATURE OF TRAINING TO INCREASE LDC EXPERTISE IN ASSESSING TECHNOLOGIES AND IN HANDLING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, PARA 24 STATES THAT LDC REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING THE TECHTRANSFER FAIR IN UTRECHT IN MAY 1978, WILL HAVE THE BENEFIT OF ADVISORY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SERVICES, ON REQUEST, FROM UNIDO SPECIALISTS TO ASSIST THEM IN RESOLVING CONCRETE PROBLEMS ARISING IN THE NEGOTIATION OF TECHNOLOGY LICENSES. (COMMENT: UNIDO APPEARS TO BE RUNNING THE RISK OF SEEMING TO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR ONE SIDE IN A CONTRACTUAL NEGOTIATION.)

6. MISSION SUGGESTS U.S.DEL:

-- THANK SECRETARIAT FOR PROVIDING A USEFUL OVERVIEW OF ITS ACTIVITIES IN THIS WIDE FIELD;

-- COMMEND THE SECRETARIAT'S INTERACTION WITH OTHER ELEMENTS IN THE UN SYSTEM;

-- NOTE THAT, DESPITE THE IMPORTANCE OF UNIDO'S WORK IN THE TECHNOLOGY FIELD, THESE ACTIVITIES MUST COMPETE WITH OTHERS FOR LIMITED RESOURCES;

-- URGE UNIDO TO ANALYZE THE RESULTS OF ITS EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER AND SUBMIT TO IDB-XIII ANOTHER OVERVIEW REPORT WHICH WOULD INDICATE THOSE ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE PROVEN

MOST FRUITFUL AND WOULD RECOMMEND PRIORITIES IN THE
USE OF RESOURCES;

-- NOTE THE RISK MENTIONED IN PARA 5 ABOVE AND EMPHA-
SIZE THE NEED FOR A BALANCED APPROACH. LEARY

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